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SEP 12 2006

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Claims 1-42, 45-49, 51-52, and 55-94 have been canceled. Claims 43-44, 50, 53-54, and 95 remain pending in the application. Claims 50, 53-54, and 95 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claim 43 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,506,847 to Shobatake. Applicants amend claim 43 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Shobatake describes a configuration in which a routing-tag adding circuit rewrites VPI/VCI values of an input cell—and also adding a tag—and transfers the cell to a switch. The Examiner apparently applied the description of a “cell before added with the tag” as alleged disclosure of the claimed “data in a format which cannot be exchanged by the switch.”

Shobatake, as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose control information before conversion being in a format other than a cell format—for example, in the data format of a link access protocol (LAP) frame. Indeed, Shobatake do not disclose converting information generated by the microprocessor 2008 described therein into a “cell” and transmitting the cell obtained by the conversion to another device via ATM switch 2003.

In other words, Shobatake, as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fails to disclose,

“[a] switch station, which exchanges a fixed-length packet with a predetermined format, comprising:  
a switch exchanging the fixed-length packet;  
a control processor generating control information in a link access protocol (LAP) frame data format, which cannot be exchanged by said switch, to control operations of this switch station;  
an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication operation according to the control information from said control processor; and

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an interface unit converting the data format of the generated control information into a data format of the fixed-length packet which said switch can exchange;

wherein the converted control information is communicated through said switch,

the control information is communicated according to link access protocol, and

said interface unit converts the data format of the control information into the data format processed by the switch station, adds to the control information such routing information as can be identified by the switch station and routed by said interface unit at a receiving equipment, and transmits the information to the switch station," as recited in claim 43. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 43, together with claim 44 dependent therefrom, is patentable over the Shobatake for at least the above-stated reasons.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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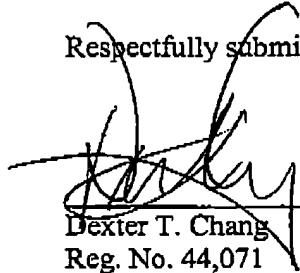
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Respectfully submitted,



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